

SENATE BILL 3224

By McNally

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 1; Title 49, Chapter 2 and Title 49,
Chapter 5, relative to teachers.

WHEREAS, in 2010, the State of Tennessee enacted a comprehensive education reform plan that resulted in the U.S. Department of Education awarding our state more than \$500 million as one of two winning states in the first round of the Race to the Top competition; and

WHEREAS, a key component of that reform legislation required the development of a new teacher evaluation model, recommended by the Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee, that would be presented to the State Board of Education for final adoption with implementation to be carried out by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee and the Tennessee Department of Education developed and the State Board of Education adopted the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model (TEAM) to provide a framework for teachers and principals to work together to ensure that students benefit from the best possible instruction every day; and

WHEREAS, through the use of the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model, both the department and the State Board of Education believe that every local school system should be able to build strong instructional teams for their schools; and

WHEREAS, the success of every local school system is vital to the future of Tennessee and a modification of the Tennessee Educator Acceleration Model to allow some control at the local level as to the frequency and extent of teacher evaluations in certain circumstances would undoubtedly be in the best interest of this state; now therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) Prior to January 1, 2013, the department of education shall develop and recommend to the state board of education a modification to the teacher educator acceleration model that would enable local education agencies to set the frequency and extent of teacher evaluations to be completed for those individual teachers under their employ who earn a score of either four (4) or five (5) on their observation or growth data and an overall score of four (4) or five (5) for the previous year.

(b) The state board of education shall implement the modification recommended pursuant to subsection (a), or a modification substantially similar to such recommendation, prior to the 2013-2014 academic year.

(c) By March 1, 2013, the commissioner of education shall report to the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives on the modification recommended to the state board of education.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.